



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700
TEL 510.817.5700
TTY/TDD 510.817.5769
FAX 510.817.5848
E-MAIL info@mtc.ca.gov
WEB www.mtc.ca.gov

Scott Haggerty, Chair
Alameda County

Adrienne J. Tissier, Vice Chair
San Mateo County

Tom Azumbrado
U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development

Tom Bates
Cities of Alameda County

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and Housing Agency

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Andrew B. Fremier
Deputy Executive Director, Operations

**Legislation Committee
October 9, 2009
Minutes**

Chair Rubin called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. Committee members in attendance: Azumbrado, Chu, Giacomini, Lempert, McKenzie, Rein Worth, Sperring, and Tissier. Also in attendance: Commissioners Bates and Cortese.

Minutes of the Committee's September 11, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Commissioner Haggerty and a second by Commissioner Rein Worth.

Advisory Committee Review

Ellen Griffin of MTC staff introduced Kendall Flint and Nora DeCuir of Pacific Municipal Consultants (PMC), who presented recommendations on a comprehensive review — requested by the Committee in June — of the existing MTC advisory committee structure. Chair Rubin thanked advisors for their work and recognized members of the public:

Dolores Jaquez of the Elderly & Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC) noted her support for PMC's recommendations and added that clearer direction and measurable goals are necessary.

Craig Yates of EDAC said he agrees with most recommendations except with the reduction of the committees, and he would like to see more Commissioners participate in advisory committee meetings.

Eleanor Bloch of EDAC said that limiting the number of senior and disabled advisors to nine restricts what subcommittees can accomplish. She recommended that eighteen disabled/senior members be appointed if the structure is changed.

Marshall Loring of EDAC said that communication with the Commission needs improvement. He also read a statement from Rich Hedges of EDAC, who noted that it is the responsibility of advisors to attend Commission meetings, not the other way around. Mr. Hedges recommended maintaining the current structure with the addition of a quarterly joint advisors meeting.

Bob Planthold of the Advisory Council noted his support for recommendations two, three and four, but noted that there are administrative and efficiency problems with the first recommendation.

Michael Rubiano of the Minority Citizens Advisory Committee (MCAC) noted his complete support of PMC's recommendations, and his disagreement with the members of EDAC, who were opposing them.

Randi Kinman of MCAC said she supports PMC's recommendations but noted concern over how appointments would be weighted. She also asked the Committee for a timeline on how restructuring decisions will be made.

Andrea Feit-Duggan noted that consolidating the current structure would result in a loss of diversity.

Carlos Romero of MCAC noted that the current structure impedes clear and unified communication with the Commission, and he supports PMC's recommendations.

Suzanne Levine of EDAC asked Commissioners to keep in mind the long-term consequences of consolidating the current structure.

Andre H. “Rocky” Birdsey of Marin Center for Independent Living noted that the PCC of Marin passed a motion to support the continuation of EDAC. He also expressed concern over a reduction of senior/disabled representatives.

Commissioner Spering noted that it would be impractical to appoint Commissioners to regularly attend the restructured committee; however, he said it was imperative to hold an annual meeting attended by both Commissioners and advisors. Commissioner Rein Worth asked the reason behind PMC’s recommendation of the number of advisors to be assigned to the restructured committee. Ms. Flint said that the number has worked well in similar agencies. Commissioner Rein Worth noted that the current structure diffuses the ability of Commissioners to receive input. Commissioner Giacomini said that a lot is broken in the current system, but noted concern over the representation of the disabled community in the recommended structure. Ms. Flint noted that the purpose of the new committee would be to vet policy, and the structure allows for subcommittees to be convened to seek technical advice.

Commissioner Bates asked that the recommendations include a specific number of senior and disabled members to be assigned to the committee. Commissioner Lempert noted that term-limits are necessary, and that there should be dedicated slots for the disabled community because they bring a specific technical view of the issues. Commissioner Tissier suggested that alternates could also be assigned to the committee. Commissioner McKenzie asked that new Commissioners be briefed on the advisory committee, and noted that a 36-member committee is too big to reach consensus. Commissioner Azumbrado said that the minority opinion within the committee should be clearly recorded in the minutes. Commissioner Spering asked staff to look into options for the annual Commissioner/advisor meeting. Staff noted that the report and the Committee’s comments would be discussed at a joint meeting of the advisory committees on October 28, and a final recommendation would be brought back to the Committee for action before the end of the year.

Contract Amendment

Staff’s recommendation to extend the contract of MTC’s Sacramento legislative representative, Carter, Wetch & Associates, for two more years was unanimously approved by the Committee following a motion by Commissioner McKenzie and a second by Commissioner Lempert.

Legislative History

Rebecca Long of MTC staff noted that two key bills are on the Governor’s desk — AB 1175 (Torlakson), the seismic retrofit bill; and SB 406 (DeSaulnier), the Sustainable Communities Strategies funding bill. She noted that the Governor’s deadline for signing or vetoing bills is midnight, October 11.

CTA Lawsuit

Ms. Long reported on the California Transit Association’s decisive court victory that could restore state public transit funding diverted by the state since FY 2007-08. Commissioner Lempert asked when transit agencies can expect to see the money returned. Ms. Long noted that the state does not currently have discretionary funds available so a timeline is unknown.

Tom Bulger’s Report

The report from MTC’s advocate in Washington, D.C. was received by the committee.

Other Business/Public Comment/Adjourn

There was no other business or public comment. The next Committee meeting was scheduled for November 13, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.